

September 3rd 1945

Dear Ones,

Rosh Hashonah is certainly creeping up quickly - I hope that this will be my last High Holiday season overseas. Next year we can look forward to walking down Newbury Street or Fowler Street together. Our prayers for peace which we offered up last year have been answered. My thoughts and prayers this week will be with you.

The Truman order on remobilization is the first step. His program for continued labor-industry peace and cooperation is promising. We are making the first steps toward the coordination and element of planning which we need. The problem seems to be divided into the short range requirement of tiding the workers over the unemployment-conversion period and the long range need of a guarantee of certain minimum production-employment levels. It would appear to me that the TIMES is right in pointing out that the first aspect should be handled within the scope of current state and national unemployment legislation and through the agencies of union where possible. But I cannot agree that the full-employment legislation which Truman supports to answer the second aspect is in essence no more than a Government spending bill. The TIMES is not right in saying that its assumption is that unemployment is caused by insufficient government spending or that its assumption is merely that private enterprise will not be able to provide the necessary jobs - the bill's assumption is that if private enterprise cannot do the job, the government must be ready to step into the breach. I do not believe that the "inflationary and authoritarian implications" as ~~greats~~ great a danger as the threats of unchecked unemployment, low production conditions. The TIMES speaks as though we were losing control of this proposed government spending policy while in fact it remains a Congressional prerogative. I have not heard the latest word on the results of the Mao Tse-Tung visit to Chungking, but my impression was that the Chinese Communists were ready for peaceful discussion of the internal questions of political settlement. I do not think that the Yen-an faction will try to pull a Tito in the face of the current Asiatic picture, and I do not think that Russia sold out the Chinese Reds entirely; in fact, if the Mao visit is successful it would seem that Allied strategy had been correct in forcing not the victory of one faction over the other but the promise of an effective and democratic solution of the differences that exist. What I liked most about the New Palestine was the scope of activity in which the ZOA participates - no matter what else you say, you cannot deny the fervor of the Zionist zealots. Perhaps that is one reason why there are so many organizations and so many clashes of personality. It is clear that with the highly charged and emotional questions of personal and public concern in the Zionist program some discord is bound to arise - but it is equally clear that unity and clear headed organization could just as well result from this enthusiasm and sincerity. Now that the London Conference is over, there is no reason why there cannot be continued concentration on mobilizing the home front picture; certainly the Council for Judaism is putting itself in more and more of an untenable condition and denying to itself the support of moderates which it might once have had. The Zionist program for the open door in Palestine and the recognition of the eventuality of an autonomous Palestinian commonwealth is basic - disagreement, splits, what have must come within that context and not disrupt the unity of the essential minimum program.

Tonight we have Junior Miss and the fellows tell me that it is wonderful, so I plan to go. I meant to remark after seeing June ~~Have~~ bounce around in "Where do we go from Here" that now I know who and what the song "June is bustin' out all over" was written about! I'll come back to this ^{letter} later on. We are still working on a volleyball game with the New Zealanders. I am reading a book by Eric Linklater called "Magnus Merriman" - I had heard of the author because of his work as a publicist and writer for the British war effort; so far the book is an excellent and somewhat ribald satire.

From her thank you notes, I would assume that Renie Freedman is slightly more aware of social custom than Mike - or perhaps he has lost some of his early rebellious selfishness. I guess he did pretty well for himself - I wonder what she looks like? - I'll have to ask for a copy of one of their wedding pictures. I am glad that the Press Herald came out strongly for a continued draft to insure that present servicemen will not be stuck - that point must be driven home again and again. I hope that the Epsteins enjoyed their visit.

I am slowly whittling down the immense stack of letterw with which I started - in fact I am down to some five unanswered envelopes now - and most of the clippings seem to concern points on which I have already touched. If we go under the announcement that came over the radio tonight this will be my first uncensored letter since coming overseas; of course we will have to wait for a confirming local directive. I don't think that it will make much difference - I never did have any military secrets entrusted to me and I haven't pulled any of my punches for fear of my comments' reaching some of the offended brass. I make take the opportunity to go into some greater detail, however. Cunningham's column still strikes me as ninety percent bull; he seldom says anything and when he does it is usually swamped in the chaff of his oppressively picturesque style. His pretty good piece on fraternization is an example.

It is now noon of the 4th. I took a novacain (spelling?) and the dentist ordeal was not too bad. Junior Miss last night was everything it was cracked up to be. I had forgotten but I saw it in the original play form when I was in Youngstown. It seems like a long time ago now. Tonight we have Saratoga Trunk - I don't know how long this good run of pictures will last.

It is interesting to note the caution with which the Labor Party is treating foreign affairs and the way Attlee allows "aski to run unofficially away in the van of the government policy. I think that the Bevin speech was important since it shows that labor is not rejecting the heritage and significance of gradualism in political change. The coming Greek plebescites will ease the Balkan tension and Bevin was probably right in not seeking to force any issues before their verdict is known - I don't understand Russia's failure to send observers to the Greek voting, perhaps it is to enhance her position of apparent indifference to the way her neighbors settle their differences as long as the governments are friendly. Bevin echoed the US policy toward the Balkans and I feel sure that Russia will grant the correctness of our stand and that free elections will be held before the problem of recognition is raised again.

I hope that PM is unnecessarily worried in its interpretation of the fate that is in store for the Atomic Bomb; it seems to me that Senator Thomas is absolutely right in pointing out that the secret and the productivity of atomic power belongs to the people and not to any one segment of finance or capital for exploitation. It is a matter which Truman will have to clarify in his instructions to his new committee. It must be recognized that we are dealing with a factor and a potential which is unique in the history of the world. It was to be expected that the NAM would buck the full employment legislation; I may be all wet, but it seems clear to me that in addition to the current workers who will find themselves unemployed, there will be a minimum of 3 to 4 millions servicemen to be absorbed within the next 18 months. Even the removal of large groups of women from the labor pool will not compensate for these returning soldiers. There may be justification for the argument that eventually private production will be geared to full employment, but I fail to see how the NAM can brush over the obvious pitfalls of the transition period.

The Kingdon broadcast for Jergens on the Dartmouth Affair added fuel to an already burning issue. I suppose that the American Council for Judaism considers the current question as an unwise discussion - I think that the more it is aired the better. It will be interesting to see if there is any reaction in the Dartmouth Alumni groups.

That about covers things for this noontime - I'll try to get in a letter to Aunt Anne before it is time to go back to work.

All my love,

Regards to Doris

Sumner